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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,344	06/23/2003	Yasuyoshi Itoh	239339US2	7206

22850 7590 05/18/2004

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TAN N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/600,344

Applicant(s)

ITOH ET AL.

Examiner

TAN N TRAN

Art Unit

2826

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5 and 8-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 23 June 2003
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Examiner has noted that the applicant has responded to the election restriction from the last communication response. The applicant has elected of Specices C, Fig. 28,29, claims 1-3,6,7 for further examination with traverse. The traversal is on the ground(s) that search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden to the examiner. However, this is not found persuasive because applicant did not submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention. Therefore the election requirement is made final.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

3. Figures 35-40 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-3,6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification does not disclose a drain region formed to face said surface in said semiconductor substrate apart from said source region through said trench as recited in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-3,6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 4,5, "a drain region formed to face said surface in said semiconductor substrate apart from said source region through said trench" is unclear as to what does applicant mean by a drain region formed to face said surface in said semiconductor substrate apart from said source region through said trench?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (6,713,834).

With regard to claims 1,2,6, Mori et al. discloses a semiconductor device comprising: a semiconductor substrate 1 having a trench formed on a surface wherein the trench is filled by insulating material 124; and an MIS transistor 164 including source/drain regions (87,88) wherein drain region formed space apart from the source region; a gate insulating film 6 made of a silicon oxide film/a silicon nitride film/a silicon oxide film formed on at least a portion to enter the trench wherein the gate insulating film having two portions (6A,6B), and a gate electrode 7 formed on the gate insulating film 6 to enter the trench. (Note see attachment #1,

lines 14,15, column 4; lines 56-58, column 14; lines 58-61, column 15, figs. 21B,21C of Mori et al.). It is inherent that the source and drain regions (87,88) formed to face the surface in the semiconductor substrate 1 in order to secure the electrical connection between the source and drain diffusion regions and the source and drain electrodes. (Note lines 14,15, column 4, fig. 2A of Mori et al.) are cited to support for the inherent position.

Mori et al. discloses all the claimed subject matter except for the first and second electric charge holding portions capable of holding an electric charge are formed in the gate insulating film to interpose the trench therebetween; the first and second electric charge holding portions have ends on the source region and the drain region. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the first and second electric charge holding portions capable of holding an electric charge are formed in the gate insulating film to interpose the trench therebetween and the first and second electric charge holding portions have ends on the source region and the drain region because Mori et al.'s gate insulating film 6 made of the same material as applicant's device i.e. silicon oxide film/a silicon nitride film/a silicon oxide material and having two portions (6A,6B) with a trench therebetween, thus the gate insulating film of Mori et al functions the same as the claimed invention. (Note see attachment #1, lines 14,15, column 4; lines 56-58, column 14; lines 58-61, column 15, figs. 21B,21C of Mori et al.) are cited to support for the well know position.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Tan Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1923. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for after final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

TT

May 2004


Minhloan Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2826